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to a fovea occurs only in the primates. Birds are provided generally with a circular area with a foveal pit developed in its centre. As birds' eyes are placed laterally and the fovea is in the optical axis, it can serve only for monocular vision. A considerable number of birds, however, possess much more complicated mechanisms for clear vision. Besides the central area and fovea, many birds, notably, swallows, terns, hawks and others, are provided with two foveas, situated in their corresponding areas, one central for monocular vision, and one situated, in species having a lateral position of the eyes, as the swallow, close to the ora serrata on the temporal side. This arrangement probably renders parallel binocular vision possible with the eyes at rest, and in convergence gives the bird a binocular view of near objects. It is further shown that as the eyes approach the frontal position, as seen in the hawks, the temporal fovea comes to be placed relatively near the central, and when the frontal position is practically attained, as in the owl, we find a single central fovea serving for both binocular and monocular vision, as in man and the primates.

Following the tables the author gives a brief statement concerning each species examined, beginning with the mammals and going down the vertebrate series. In some cases his results differ from other observers, a notable case of difference occurring with reference to the "trough-like" fovea described and figured by Chevitz for several birds. Slonaker finds a dark line passing through the centre of certain band-like areas, giving somewhat the appearance of a trough in surface views. Sections across the area, however, in every instance reveal no trace of a depression. He is, therefore, warranted in questioning, for the present, the existence of a trough-like foveal depression.

The closing portion of the article is devoted to an outline on the physiological side of the character of vision as correlated with the retinal mechanism possessed by the animal. The writer's anatomical studies up to this point have led up to this subject, but have not afforded time as yet for its adequate investigation. The main generalization as to the character of foveal and retinal vision is borne out, viz., that for the perception of objects in motion an undifferentiated retina or slightly differentiated area is sufficient, and that when an animal's life comes to depend upon its ability to see clearly motionless objects, a fovea is developed.

C. F. H.

Die Alkoholfrage und ihre Bedeutung für Volkswohl und Volksgesundheit. Eine sozial-medizinische Studie für Aerzte und gebildete Laien. Von DR. AUGUST SMITH. Tübingen, 1895, pp. iv, 127; plates, 7.

As a result of a series of experiments suggested by Professor Kraepelin to test the influence of alcohol upon psychical processes, Dr. Smith, by administering forty to eighty grammes of alcohol daily in small doses, obtained in his subjects a gradual decrease in ability to add, amounting in twelve days to about twenty per cent., while for memorizing, a final diminution of about seventy per cent. was observed after the same time. Cessation of the use of alcohol was accompanied by the immediate return to the normal, followed by an evidence of improvement due to practice. The return to alcohol after seven days gave an immediate and marked decrease.

In another research, associations were recorded and arranged according to Wundt's classification as inner, outer and "*sinnlich zusammenhanglose*." The charted results show a marked percent-

age of increase of those of the second and third classes and a decrease in the occurrence of those of the first on days when alcohol (40-80 grammes) was administered, with the reverse on normal days. The book is an addition to an already long list of compilations and restatements of previously advanced arguments, socio-logical, ethical, psychological, physiological and pathological, against the use of alcohol. Special sections are devoted to statistics of mortality and disease, the symptoms and conditions of chronic alcoholism, and the consideration of prophylactic measures.

C. C. STEWART.

Experimentelle Untersuchungen über die Veränderungen der ganglien-zellen bei der acuten Alcoholvergiftung. Von DR. MED. HEINRICH DEHIO. Centralbl. f. Nervenheilkunde und Psychiatrie. März-Heft, 1895.

In undertaking the experimental study of changes in nervous cells, Dehio has chosen alcohol because of our more or less complete knowledge of its psychological and clinical effects. Eight rabbits, of which two were controls and one, being diseased, was useless, formed the first series for experiment. Alcohol was administered by mouth and by sub-cutaneous injection, the latter method producing the greatest results in the shortest time. The usual dose was 7 to 10 c.c. of 96% alcohol reduced to 40%, followed, as consciousness returned, by a further dose of 5 c.c., until in all 20 or 25 c.c. had been given. Death occurred in from one hour to thirty-four hours, according to the amount of alcohol administered.

Slides were prepared by Nissl's methyl-blue method (nitric acid and Flemming not giving any reliable results). The effect of the alcohol poisoning was not observed with any certainty in those animals which died in the earlier stages of intoxication, and in the others was most easily demonstrable in Purkinje's cells of the cerebellum. The observed pathological changes in the cells are described for them alone. The fine-meshed network of the blue staining substance is replaced by fine, irregularly arranged granules of more or less constant size. The achromatin is colored faintly blue. Sometimes the whole cell, sometimes only a part, is affected. Nucleus, nucleolus and cell processes are unchanged. By no means all the cells are affected, often only a relatively small number.

Another series included three dogs: one control, one living five hours, and the third thirty hours. The one living five hours showed nothing, while the one intoxicated for thirty hours gave more pronounced results than the rabbits.

C. C. STEWART.

II. ANTHROPOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY.

BY ALEX. F. CHAMBERLAIN, PH. D.

Die Denkschöpfung umgebender Welt aus kosmogonischen Vorstellungen in Cultur und Uncultur. A. BASTIAN. Berlin, 1896, 211 S. 8vo.

Another study in folk-psychology from the *doyen* of German ethnologists. This is a typical volume of Bastian's, and exhibits at once his merits and defects. It is a wilderness of facts, with imperfect references, and no index of tribes and peoples noticed. For all that, however, the book is an invaluable one to the psychologist and the student of the mind of primitive peoples.